

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05741 131741Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ARA-06

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4522

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, VN, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE DEFMIN VISITS EAST BERLIN

### SUMMARY:

THE 11-DAY VISIT TO THE GDR OF A VIETNAMESE  
MILITARY DELEGATION UNDER DEFENSE MINISTER VO NGUYEN  
GIAP MARCH 28-APRIL 7 RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE  
IN GDR MEDIA BUT DID NOT RESULT IN AN OFFICIALLY  
ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE. GIAP MET WITH  
HONECKER, DEFENSE MINISTER HENIZ HOFFMANN AND  
POLITBURO MEMBER KURT HAGER DURING HIS STAY,  
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05741 131741Z

BUT SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME OUTSIDE EAST BERLIN  
VISITING GDR TROOPS, FACTORIES, AGRICULTURAL COLLECTIVES  
AND SCHOOLS ACCOMPANINED BY GDR DEPUTY DEFMIN  
WALDEMAR VERNER. AT THE END OF THE VISIT BOTH SIDES  
STATED THAT THEY HAD DEEPENED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE  
GDR NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY (NVA) AND THE VIETNAMESE  
PEOPLE'S ARMY THROUGH "AGREED MEASURES" WITHOUT GOING

INTO SPECIFICS.  
END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO ND REPORTS OF A HONECKER-GIAP MEETING HELD APRIL 4, HONECKER GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE GDR WOULD CONTINUE TO AID VIETNAM TO OVERCOME THE RESULTS OF "IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION" AND TO BUILD SOCIALISM. BEYOND THIS REFERENCE TO AID FOR VIETNAM, HONECKER SAID NOTHING ABOUT GDR AID TO OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN HIS REMARKS. AT A WORKING MEETING BETWEEN GIAP AND HOFFMANN APRIL 3, BOTH SIDES REPORTEDLY STRESSED THAT THE GDR AND VIETNAM'S LOCATION ON THE BORDER OF SOCIALIST SYSTEMS IN EUROPE AND SOUTH EAST ASIA GIVE THEM A SPECIAL MILITARY ROLE. BOTH SIDES REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF VISITS BY MILITARY SPECIALISTS AND OF THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES ON POLITICAL EDUCATION AND MILITARY TRAINING.

2. IN ITS COVERAGE OF GIAP'S VISITS TO VARIOUS GDR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, ND REPORTED MARCH 31 THAT GIAP VISITED VIETNAMESE OFFICERS AT THE GDR ARMY COLLEGE IN LOEBAU IN THE ERFURT DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO ND, THE VIETNAMESE STUDENTS WERE PARTICIPANTS IN A PROGRAM OF SEVERAL WEEKSDURATION STUDYING MODERAN WEAPONS TECHOLOGY AND MARXISM-LENINISM. ACCORDINGTO NDVD ALL OF THE VIETNAMESE OFFICERS HAD FOUGHT AGAINST THE "US AGGRESSORS".

3. COMMENT: FOLLOWING LE DUAN'S VISIT TO THE GDR  
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 05741 131741Z

IN OCTOBER 1975 GIAP'S VISIT PROVIDES ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GDR TO PLAY UP ITS ROLE IN OFFERING MILITARY AND OTHERAID TO THE THIRD WORLD. AS IN THE CASE OF LUIS CORVALAN'S RECENT VISIT TO EAST BERLIN, THE GDR GAVE GIAP MAXIMUM EXPOSURE ON TRIPS OUTSIDE EAST BERLIN TO REMIND THE GDR CITIZENRY THAT THE GDR SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGNS FOR VIETNAM AND CHILE WERE NOT FOR NAUGHT.

4. WE NOTE THAT AFTER SPENDING HIS FIRST THREE DAYS VISITING OTHER GDR CITIES, GIAP WAS IN EAST BERLIN DURING CASTRO'S SURPRISE APRIL 3 VISIT. THERE IS AS YET NOT EVIDENCE THAT GIAP AND CASTRO MET ON THIS OCCASION, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY DID.

5. IN REPORTING ON GIAP'S VISIT TO THE GDR OFFICER'S ACADEMY ERNST THAELMANN IN LOEBAU, THE GDR HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME OFFICIALLY ADMITED THAT FOREIGN OFFICERS ARE BEING TRAINED IN THE GDR. UP

UNTIL NOW, THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY RUMORS ABOUT SUCH  
OFFICER TRAINING IN THE GDR, PARTICULARLY IN THE  
FRIEDRICH ENGELS MILITARY ACADEMY IN DRESDEN. NOW  
THAT THE GDR HAS OFFICIALLY MENTIONED THE EXISTENCE  
OF VIETNAMESE OFFICERS IN LOEBAU, IT APPEARS  
POSSIBLE THAT SIMILAR TRAINING IS GOING IN OTHER  
GDR MILITARY ACADEMIES, SUCH AS THE GDR AIR FORCE  
ACADEMY IN KAMENZ, MARINE ACADEMY IN STRALSUND, AND  
BORDER TROOP ACADEMY IN PLAUE.  
POLANSKY

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## Message Attributes

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